

## LAWLER'S ADDRESS

**What the Sons of Old Ireland  
Have Done for Our Glo-  
rious Union.**

**Always Among the Leaders  
in Advancing This Coun-  
try's Cause.**

**The Prominent and Brave  
Part They Took in the  
Revolution.**

**Represented in Continental  
Congress, the Army and  
the Navy.**

### HEROIC AND PATRIOTIC ACTIONS

The following is the address which Mr. William M. Lawler had prepared for delivery on the occasion of the recent A. O. H. celebration of the Fourth of July. Because of family affliction he was unable to fulfill his part of the programme. The paper, however, contains so much that is interesting and instructive that we feel justified in presenting it to the readers of the Kentucky Irish-American this week:

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Fellow Citizens: The subject, Irish Americans, which has been assigned to me on this occasion is one which is very appropriate for the Fourth of July. It comes natural for us to join in the refrain:

Go ring the bells and fire the guns,  
And fling the starry banner out;  
Shout freedom till your lipsing ones  
Give back their cradle shout.

For if there is one race of people more than another which may take special glory unto itself on independence day it is the Irish. Before we enter upon the subject, however, let me warn you that I do not intend to talk to you about the soldiers or statesmen of Ireland, for I shall confine myself to the noble part which Ireland's sons played in gaining and maintaining the principles of liberty in our glorious American Union. And if we take the trouble and time to look up the matter we shall find that the Irish were among the first to contend for that chief principle of liberty which is so dear to the heart of every man, the right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.

In 1684 Dougan, an Irishman, called together the representatives of the colony of New York to frame new laws, and among these was one guaranteeing this right. From that day until the close of the civil war at Appomattox Court House there is not a page in our country's history which is not made more inspiring by some noble, brilliant or patriotic act of our forefathers.

The first thing naturally which engages our attention is the process by which we became a nation. It is not necessary for me to dwell upon the causes which brought about our separation from England. But in all great movements of this kind there are always a great many preliminary measures intended to bring about the right kind of enthusiasm, so that finally the paramount object may be attained. This movement required agitation, resolutions and speech-making, and the cause of independence recruited some of its most eloquent and influential leaders from the Irish. Among these we find such names as Rodgers, McWhorter, Allison, Carroll and O'Brien. In regard to the latter history tells us that during revolutionary times the great rallying places were around the liberty poles, which consisted of tall trees stripped of their branches except a tuft of Irish green at the top. This was called

the wearing of the green. You will see we are at home. And so was Jerry O'Brien, as he was one of the most notable speakers on these occasions.

And Jerry could fight as well as he spoke. He and his five brothers engaged the English armed schooner Margaretta with a lumber vessel and captured her. This was the first naval battle of the war, and the victory was due to the ability, courage and patriotism of a son of the Emerald Isle.

All through the Continental Congress some of the most prominent members were furnished by Ireland. And in the convention called to frame a constitution which would give to the country a stable and well ordered government we find in the list such names as Livingston and Patterson, of New Jersey, the latter of whom advocated the States' rights plan; Fitzsimons, of Pennsylvania, the great financier; McHenry and Daniel Carroll, of Maryland; Read, of Delaware; Williamson and Spaight, of North Carolina, and Rutledge and Butler, of South Carolina, all of whom took a very prominent part in the proceedings and debates of the convention. But it sometimes happens that behind closed doors or when we are in suitable company we are very courageous and patriotic. The test comes when we must have our names appear in print or sign some important document. Let us look over the list and ascertain where our forefathers stood when Congress declared that "the colonies are and ought to be free and independent States." Among the list of signers we find the names of Thornton, Livingston, Smith, Taylor, Read, McKean, Rutledge, Lynch and Carroll of Carrollton. It is related that

of the cannon. The guns charged with grapeshot opened in their very faces, and when the smoke lifted there lay the lifeless form of Montgomery, almost under the very wheels of the artillery, where his headlong courage had carried him.

Another of the conspicuous Generals of revolutionary times was that grand and grim old warrior, Sullivan. He it was with Langdon who struck the first blow in freedom's cause by the capture of Fort William and Mary with all its stores. There was not a General engaged in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Staten Island or Brandywine who exhibited greater courage or patriotism than Sullivan. And when placed in command of the northern division of the army his expedition against the Indians, who, incited by the English and Tories to rob, plunder and murder the colonists living on the border, was one of the grandest of the war. The famous march of Sherman to the sea can not be compared to it. It was simply a war of annihilation. But Sullivan's heart relented when he came to the Genesee valley, one of nature's gardens of Eden. The valley was about twenty miles long by four broad and had scarce a forest tree in it. There were many comfortable frame houses built by the Indians. The tall ripe grass bent before the wind. Corn field upon corn field as far as the eye could reach waved in the sunlight; orchards that had been growing for generations were weighed down with a profusion of fruit; cattle grazed on the banks of the river and all was luxuriance and beauty. But his commands were peremptory. An enemy who felt no obligations and kept no faith must be placed beyond

Americans or Irishmen have more reason to feel the pride of patriotism swelling within their bosoms at the rehearsal of that midnight scene at Philadelphia when the result of the war was made known. It was a grand spectacle for both. Lieut. Col. Tighman rode from Yorktown to Philadelphia to notify Congress of Cornwallis' surrender. He reached the house of Thomas McKean, the Irish President of Congress, at midnight, whom he aroused from sleep to receive the glad tidings. The Irish-American watchman called out the hour, half-past twelve o'clock, and Cornwallis is taken. That Irish-American city started from its slumbers and lights flitted through the streets like a crescent illumination. The old State House bell rang out its treble notes on the crisp morning air and the hoarse cannon thundered forth its double bass in reply. The Irish-American Congress came early together and Charles Thompson, that venerable Irish Secretary, read with clear and inspired voice Washington's announcement that Cornwallis had surrendered, that a nation had been born, that these grand and glorious United States are a free and independent nation. No wonder Lord Mountjoy exclaimed in Parliament, "You lost America by the Irish."

But, my friends, it is not necessary to confine ourselves to our earlier history to find deeds of heroism and patriotism recorded to the credit of Irish-Americans. Both in the Mexican and civil wars some of the most important battles were commanded and fought by Irishmen. Gen. Kearney was the first man to unfurl the American flag in the Spanish-American province of New

Leonidas and his band of 300 Spartans at the pass of Thermopylae and the retreat of the 10,000 Greeks. We are also accustomed to hear of Irish bravery. We have heard of Clontarf, Fontenoy, Albuera, Cremona and Waterloo, and we always admire noble and patriotic men where found. But, my friends, history has never recorded the deeds of a braver or more patriotic band than Meagher and his Irish-American Brigade at Fredericksburg. The Confederates were entrenched behind a stone wall four feet high and on heights crowned with artillery. What a thrill of admiration and patriotism must we feel as we see in our mind's eye that brave and noble band of Irish patriots attacking that fortification. Once they attack and numberless guns tear gaps in their ranks; twice, three times, and artillery volleys smote them. Yet again, again and again they returned to the charge until they left two-thirds of their number on the field of their heroic action. Never, says a London Times correspondent, was more undoubted courage displayed by the sons of Erin than during those six frantic charges which they directed against the almost impregnable position of their foe. That any mortal man could have carried the position, defended as it was, seems idle for a moment to believe. But the bodies which lie in dense masses within a few yards of Col. Walton's guns are the best evidence what manner of men they were who pressed on to death, with the dauntlessness of a race which has gained glory on 1,000 battlefields, and never more richly deserved it than at the foot of Mary's Heights on December 13, 1862.

While our navy has never been very

this list we find the names of Blaine, Egan, Collins, Wilhere, Grant, Hopkins and Harbitt. Among theologians we have Archbishops Carroll, Hughes, Ireland, Bishops England, Foley and Ryan. Thus we see that there is not a nation on the earth whose sons have done more for the upbuilding of American institutions than Ireland. When the Irishman comes to this country as a greenhorn he comes perfectly equipped for American citizenship. He is a natural-born democrat, and possesses that love of liberty which makes him feel at home immediately. He has two peculiar characteristics. One, his undying love for the Stars and Stripes, and the other, a happy faculty for achieving success. In the words of Moore:

There is a stone there  
That whoever kisses,  
Oh! he never misses  
To grow eloquent.  
Don't hope to hinder him  
Or to bewilder him,  
Sure he's a pilgrim  
From the Blarney Stone.

### BRAVE IRISH MARINE.

**Interesting Letter Recounting Deeds  
of Valor and Experiences of Our  
Men at Guantanamo.**

James Egan, who was for some years a resident of this city, immigrated at the age of sixteen years from Galway, Ireland, coming direct to Louisville. Mr. Egan has always been ambitious to serve Uncle Sam. Two years ago he left this city, going to Boston, where he entered the Marine Corps. He was among the first to land and engage the Spaniards, and the following letter to his brother, Michael Egan, of 2027 Tyler avenue, will be of interest to his many friends. Mr. Egan is in Company D, First Battalion, United States Marine Corps. It was written at Guantanamo, Cuba, and is noteworthy in that it contains a correct account of their movements. The fact that a body of our men numbering but 200 killed 200 and wounded 100 others is remarkable, and fully justifies his prediction that the war will be over in a few months. The letter is as follows:

"Dear Brother: I am writing you this under very favorable circumstances, considering the time we had during the week. We embarked here last Friday evening and had to fight every day until yesterday. On Saturday last we had our first fight and two men of my company were killed. On Sunday we fought about all day. We had 200 men and we killed about 200 of the enemy, wounded nearly 100 and took eighteen prisoners.

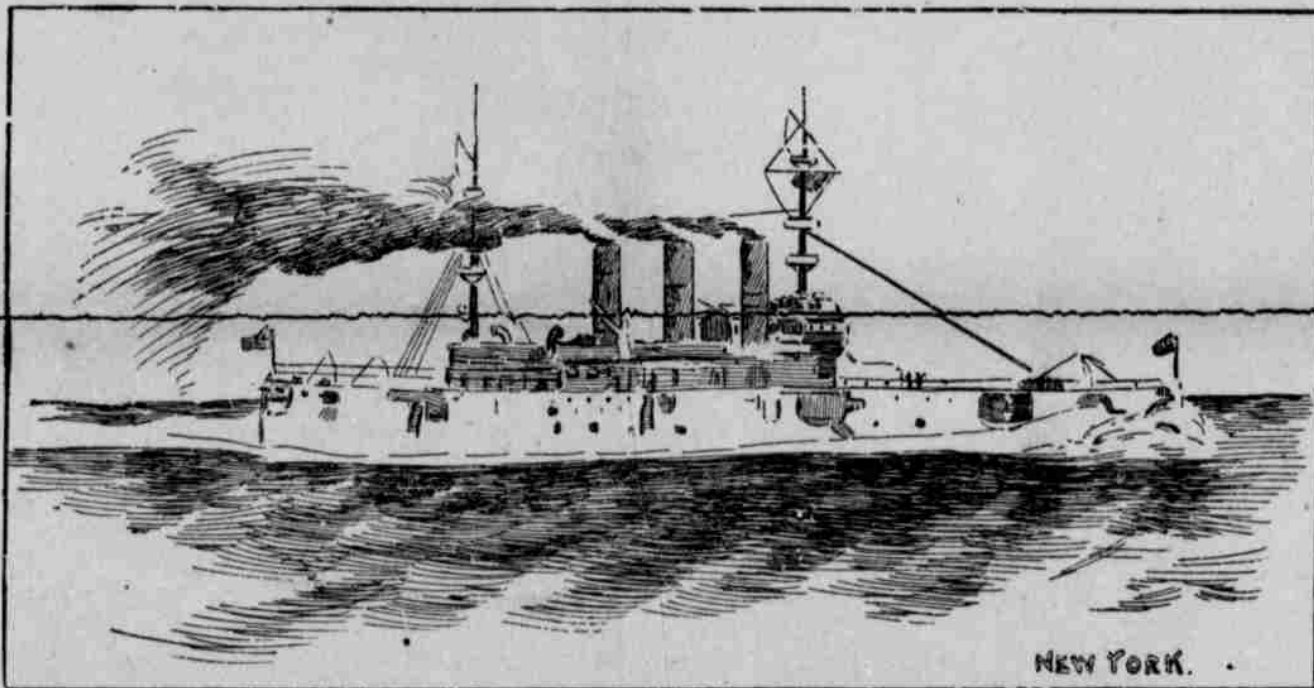
"We fought night and day incessantly without sleep for four days. The enemy came through the woods at night and attacked our camp, which is pretty well fortified now. At the time we landed here we did not have a thing to protect us. It is surprising that the Spaniards did not attack us in large numbers at first. They never fight square nor in the daylight or open. The day they did they got a bad beating, and we had only two companies of marines.

"This country is full of mountains and woods, and at night we easily get lost. So far we only lost two privates, one Sergeant, one Sergeant Major and a doctor, and eight or ten wounded. We all had narrow escapes, and I can tell you it is pretty dangerous business dodging bullets. You may be walking along at night on patrol and a man inside a tree can shoot one without trouble. We all hope to get back all right, but we have to obey orders and risk anything.

"The weather is very warm here, and we have been lucky in not having rain at all, as it rains very heavy here. We expect the town of Guantanamo to surrender in a few days, for they are starving and our ships have the harbor blockaded. Many of the Spaniards have come into camp and given themselves up. They reported the people starving, so we expect the war to be over in a few months. The army has not arrived here yet and 600 of us have to do the fighting.

"It is pretty hard to get paper and stamps here, and when you send me a letter again send me just one sheet of paper, one stamp and an envelope on the inside. I must conclude by wishing you all well as I am at present, as I have not received a scratch yet, but I don't know what minute something may happen. Tell all the folks I send them my best respects. Your affectionate brother,

"JAMES EGAN."



The United States Armored Cruiser New York.

when Carroll signed some one remarked: "There go millions; but there are so many Carrolls King George will not know which one it is," whereupon Carroll added the words "of Carrollton," with the remark that there could be no mistake about that.

This, my friends, indicates the sentiments which animated those men. It was the love of that liberty represented by the stars and stripes. It was the same patriotic impulse which caused the Irish American citizens to take up arms and battle for the right. In fact, without the part played by the Irish there would not have been a revolution.

At the battle of Bunker Hill, when the American eagle was taking his first flight heavenward, we find one Major General Stark marching with his regiment through cannon balls that swept Charleston neck to the American lines. Side by side with the troops of Knowlton they stood, and nowhere were the volleys steadier or more deadly than where Stark and his followers lay. Some one had asked Gen. Gage whether the rebels would stand fire. "Yes," he said, "if one Major General Stark is there, for he is a brave fellow."

Where can we find a braver or more noble patriot than Montgomery at the siege of Quebec? Imagine a cold December day with a blinding snowstorm, large banks of snow filling the paths, the British gunners standing with lighted matches ready to do the bidding of their commander. Observing that this scene rather intimidated his men, he turned to them and said: "Men of New York, you will not fear to follow where your General leads!" On they dashed to the very mouths

the reach of inflicting injury. Before he left that valley everything was in ashes. My friends, it would take volumes to tell of the brave and daring deeds of the Irish Americans. Wayne at Stony Point and on many other battle fields won many laurels; Graham at Charlotte, N. C., covered himself with glory and his body with scars, and on another occasion this same Graham defeated 600 English with 100 Americans. Many others also distinguished themselves.

Hand, the right-hand man of Washington; Hezlett, at the head of the Delaware troops; Irvine, the trusted friend of Washington, and Knox, whose father founded the first Irish society in the United States at Boston. Gen. Knox was perhaps the most illustrious soldier of the war next to Washington. He was the creator and commander of the Washington artillery and fought in every battle with Washington. We must not forget Morgan, the hero of Cowpens, of whom history says with his trusty rifleman around him he was a dangerous foe to meet. This Ballinascree Irishman, with fifty Irish American soldiers, defeating the veteran Tarleton with his English troops, each one bringing with him a prisoner, is one of the grandest incidents of the revolution.

We can not pass over Joseph Read, Washington's private secretary, who was offered \$50,000 and the best office of his majesty if he would desert the patriotic cause. He answered, "I am not worth purchasing, but such as I am, the King of Great Britain is not rich enough to buy me." This man was not an Anglo-Saxon.

My friends, I know not whether

Mexico, and he fought in many of the battles during that campaign. At Lexington, Mo., Col. James A. Muligan, with only 2,000 of the Chicago Irish Brigade, held out against Price, with 20,000 men, for three days in a most heroic manner, and only surrendered after their supply of water had been shut off for forty-eight hours. At the battle of Murfreesboro the Confederates made a most vicious attack on the Union's right, which was very much demoralized then. But history tells us Sheridan was there, and by his consummate valor held the ground till Rosecrans could replant his batteries and establish a new line. At Chantilly fell the noble Stevens and Kearney. The latter was especially beloved by his men. It was his custom on the battlefield to take the reins of his horse between his teeth, and brandishing his sword in the air with his only hand, he would lead his troops in the most desperate and irresistible charge. At Gettysburg we find Gen. Mead conducting one of the most hotly contested battles of the civil war against Gen. Lee. The battle lasted three days, but Lee was finally driven back, with loss of 40,000 men. This was the turning point of the war, and the South never recovered from the Gettysburg campaign. At Cold Harbor we find Col. McMahon, at the head of his New York regiment, planting Old Glory within the Confederate works, when he was killed and his army driven back, with a loss of 10,000 men.

Again, at Winchester and Fisher's Hill we find Sheridan engaged in a week's battle with Early, destroying half his army and sending the rest whirling up the Shenandoah Valley. My friends, we have all heard of

large until recently, it has done some very effective service, and among our naval heroes we find many who are Irish or Irish descent. In this list we find the names of Beale, Manly, Cassin, McDonough and Barry, our first Commodore, a title then superior to any in our navy at this time. Should we investigate who compose our present navy it is safe to predict that sixty per cent. of that navy, which has amazed the whole world by its unheard of victories, is either Irish or Irish descent.

But, my friends, we must not suppose for a moment that war is the only forte of Irishmen. We find that they are able to compete with other nationalities in every line. If we take into consideration the accumulation of money we find the names of Fair, Flood, Field, Mackey and Kelly. If we refer to lawyers we find such names as O'Connor, Dougherty, White and Cochran. Among great statesmen, Calhoun and Jackson. Among those who have occupied seats in the Senate we find the names of Caffery, Walsh, White of California, Gorman and others. Among authors we find Shay, Gibbons, Ryan, Carey, Logan, Robert Walsh, Ramsay and Rev. Lambert of New York—the only man that literally flayed alive that notorious infidel, Bob Ingersoll. Among journalists we find Cassidy, Boyle O'Reilly, Ford, MacMaster, Donahue and Grady—that brilliant and eloquent journalist and statesman, who did more to unite the North and South by his New York speech than any other American statesman living or dead. Among the noted diplomats and political leaders we find some of the most brilliant to be either born in Ireland or the sons of Irishmen. In